

STAT

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-12NEW YORK TIMES
21 AUGUST 1979

C.I.A. Chief Drawn Into Young Dispute

By GRAHAM HOVEY
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — The State Department invoked the highest intelligence authority in the Government today to support its statement that by July 30 it did not have an account of Andrew Young's unauthorized meeting with a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Thomas Reston, a State Department spokesman, expressed doubt that such a report existed and added: "The Office of the Director of Central Intelligence knows of no such account." That office, headed by Adm. Stansfield Turner, coordinates all intelligence from Government agencies.

Mr. Young told The New York Times last week that an almost verbatim account of his July 26 conversation with Zehdi Labib Terzi, the P.L.O. observer at the United Nations, was circulating in the department four days later and that "it was very accurate." He implied that the

account had come from intelligence sources.

In the uproar that followed Mr. Young's acknowledgment that he had not notified the Government about the meeting and then had misled officials about the content of the discussion, he resigned as chief United States delegate to the United Nations.

Statement Repeated on TV

After Mr. Young, in a television interview yesterday, said again that he had seen such a report but did not know how the State Department acquired it, Mr. Reston called a news conference to repeat an assertion that no account of the Young-Terzi meeting had been available in the department before Aug. 11.

On that date, a senior department official, having received a press query about the meeting, telephoned Mr. Young to ask about it.

At one point, referring to the report that Mr. Young says was circulating in the department by July 30, Mr. Reston

said, "I don't believe that such an account exists." He later said he had meant only that no such account of the July 26 meeting was available at the State Department.

Mr. Reston today reread the statement he had issued at the hastily-called news conference yesterday, which contained this sentence: "There was information available on July 30 that on July 26, a suggestion was made that Ambassador Young meet with Mr. Terzi but not that a meeting had been agreed upon."

Silent on Information Source

Mr. Reston repeatedly refused to say who had suggested the meeting. He said neither Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance nor Deputy Secretary Warren M. Christopher was informed of the suggested meeting.

Asked if anyone had reminded Mr. Young that a substantive discussion with the P.L.O. would violate policy, Mr. Reston said: "Not to my knowledge."

Mr. Reston seemed to imply that one reason the department did not contact Mr. Young was that similar suggestions for meetings with P.L.O. representatives had been made in the past.

"On this particular report, which was available to us on July 30," he said, "I want to reiterate that we had no report that a meeting had been agreed upon or that a meeting had taken place."

Young's Aide Refuses Comment

After Mr. Reston had repeated that no account of the meeting was available before Aug. 11, a senior department official said that Mr. Young "would not disagree with the statement."

At Mr. Young's New York office, however, his press secretary, Thomas Offenburger, said: "Ambassador Young has no comment on any of that and has no plans for any comment. He wishes to get on with the work of the Security Council." Mr. Young will continue as Council President through August.

Mr. Reston's invocation of the C.I.A., in support of the denial that the account mentioned by Mr. Young had been available to the department, was an unusual development. State Department spokesmen routinely decline to comment on matters involving intelligence-gathering.

"We here in this building have checked this morning with the office of the Director of Central Intelligence," Mr. Reston said, "and that Office is prepared to stand by the statement which I made."

A spokesman for the C.I.A. later confirmed Mr. Reston's statement.

Asked whether the White House might have been aware of the account mentioned by Mr. Young, Mr. Reston said:

"The report this morning concerned senior members of the intelligence community. The White House is not an intelligence-gathering organization."

Mr. Reston said that because of "ill-advised speculation" that Mr. Young had been forced out, he wanted to "state something flatly and for the record."

"The ambassador did in fact voluntarily submit his own resignation," Mr. Reston said. "There has been some suggestion that somehow there was an ultimatum by the Secretary of State, an 'either him or me' situation. That is a false, flat lie."

STAT